

# Bush, Mulroney Praise Gorbachev

## *Lithuania Said To Cause Concern*

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TORONTO, April 10—President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney today offered a strong vote of confidence in Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, but Bush and some senior U.S. officials acknowledged they remain concerned about deterioration in U.S.-Soviet relations over the Lithuania crisis and backsliding in strategic arms negotiations.

Gorbachev and the dramatic changes he has unloosed in the Soviet Union and Europe appeared to dominate three hours of discussions here between Bush and Mulroney this afternoon. In a joint news conference, the two leaders went out of their way to praise Gorbachev as he struggles to reverse Lithuania's bid for independence and seeks to reinvigorate the bankrupt Soviet economy.

Gorbachev "has a record of encouraging and acquiescing in peaceful evolution and democratic change in Eastern Europe," Bush said. "He has demonstrated that he is committed to peaceful change and the evolution of democracy—inside as he moves forward on *perestroika* [openness], outside, as we see a peaceful resolution to questions in Eastern Europe . . ."

Although Bush said the United States would not link its foreign policy to the success or failure of one man, the president said of Gorbachev, "He is a known quantity in the West," adding that western leaders "find a frankness there and a willingness to discuss difficult problems that has not always been the case in dealing with the Soviet Union."

Mulroney offered similar comments, saying, "We're dealing with an entirely different kettle of fish,

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